



## MEET ODH FOSTERS: THE WOLFE AND SCHWARZ FAMILIES.

My ODH journey began after I sponsored a friend in the annual Walk. Casually I would look at the Facebook feed, not giving much thought to becoming a permanent foster until one day, a picture of a black & white, one-eyed cocker spaniel appeared, and I knew instantly he was my dog.

We welcomed Rufus into our lives and now nine ODH dogs later, we can't imagine our lives without ODH and amazing senior pups. Each one has left a mark on our hearts, and I am eternally grateful for the time we had with them. It makes my heart happy knowing that each pup spent their last days being loved, cherished, and eating yummy treats!



*Darsie & Rufus*

My friends say what I do is wonderful and don't know how I do it, but I tell them each pup does so much more for me than I do for them. Every experience is such a gift. Each dog has brought our family so much joy and love, and has taught us, especially my kids, to be more compassionate and

patient. To watch a dog's personality unfold as they feel more safe and trusting is heartwarming to watch. I love seeing them live their best lives because they still have so much to give and deserve it.



*Ethan & Bella*

What I love about ODH is how much Judith and the rest of ODH passionately and furiously care about senior pups. Judith is a rare gem. I appreciate that Judith makes sure each dog is matched with the right home so it is a successful union. After a family tragedy, she knew how much my son wanted an ODH pittie, and when the right one became available, she reached out to us. Bella Nina has been with us over a year now and she truly saved my

son—she is the funniest, most stubborn dog ever, but we love her to pieces.

Being a permanent foster is not always easy—lots of trips to the vet and specialists, I had to learn how to navigate having blind and deaf dogs, lots of pee on the carpet, and the hardest part, making the difficult decision to let them go—but I will say the joy of seeing a dog flourish in our home and the love they give us far outweighs all of that. Taking in a senior dog is one of the best life experiences I have ever had.



*The Wolfe Family*

*Photo by Julie Austin*

Rusty's first anniversary with us is just days away. Like any anniversary, it's a good time for some reflection.

Who's Rusty? He's a Toy poodle that had been in a shelter and then briefly in a shelter foster home. He arrived from ODH into our home just ahead of the Covid-19 "lockdown." And, what a wonderful companion he's been.



*Judy and Dick Schwarz picking up Rusty from the shelter*



Rusty is our fourth from ODH, preceded by Max, Scamp and Wrigley. He shows his appreciation and enthusiasm with a near constant tail wagging. If that energy could be harnessed it could power most of the Pacific Northwest.

As often is the case with dogs helped by ODH, little was known of his medical status, but as he settled in with us vet appointments showed dental issues, skin problems, dry eye, and Iris Atrophy—all being treated by ODH vet clinics and specialists.



Rusty is a resilient little dog. We suspect he was well loved in the past. He is affectionate and always wants to cuddle and be close. Touch is a tonic for him. He is loving and loyal. I know he would hug if he could. He has made fast friends in the neighborhood. Being a shy fellow he prefers to watch rather than participate in play. But, his movie star good looks attract

much attention from human passers-by.

We raised two half-brother miniature schnauzers of our own. After their passing, we noticed how empty our house felt without the heart beat of a dog. Then we found we could help dogs in need through ODH. Each dog we've had through ODH came to us with a very different story, but their stories end the same—in a loving home with the needed vet care. Reflecting on our experience with Old Dog Haven, I think it is one of the most important things we have done.



## FUNDRAISING BENEFITS FOR OLD DOG HAVEN

We're always very grateful that so many individuals, groups, and small businesses take it upon themselves to host benefits for ODH. This kind of unsolicited generosity is a wonderful compliment, as well as a tremendous boost to our financial ability to help old dogs. We'd like to especially thank the following groups and individuals :



**Summer and Piper** held an ornament sale to benefit our dogs. These two dedicated young ladies also sell lemonade in the summer to raise money for ODH.



Our wonderful long-time supporters at **Paddywack, Shane and Adam**, held their annual ODH **Have A Heart** sponsorship drive in February. Not only did they match the first \$1,000 in sponsorships, they added the option for people to donate \$1 or \$5 for a heart.



**The Kirkland Sea Hawk**ers held a zoom fundraiser for ODH during December.

**K-9 Sniffers** had a raffle during their holiday party and donated proceeds to ODH.



**PetPros** featured Old Dog Haven as part of their Paw-liday Giving during the holidays. Thousands of dollars were raised for our senior dogs. *Pictured left are Paula (ODH), Sokie, Scott and store manager, Nina.*



Thanks to all who helped our dogs by purchasing merchandise from our first ever **Holiday Store**.

Thanks to all who held **fundraisers on Facebook**.



Thanks to so many we had our best **Giving Tuesday** ever ... raising over \$125,000 for the dogs.



Every year GiveBIG is a magical and heartwarming day for Old Dog Haven. Hundreds of supporters show how much they love and care about our dogs by making a gift; you believe in our mission and that means the world to us! Because of your generosity GiveBIG has become our BIGGEST

fundraiser of the year and helps ensure we can continue caring for the dogs. Thank YOU! **This year GiveBIG will be a two-day giving event. Please consider making a gift to Old Dog Haven on May 4 & 5 during GiveBIG.**

If you or your company are interested in providing a matching gift for GiveBIG contact Paula at [development@olddoghaven.org](mailto:development@olddoghaven.org)



**K9 Korral in Lake Stevens** again "adopted" ODH at their client Christmas party with donations of cash and a sleigh full of supplies. Thanks to the



**Community Tattoo Collective** chose ODH to benefit during the month of December, and they raised thousands of dollars for our dogs.



The customers at **Cookies Pet Corner** love supporting ODH by purchasing raffle tickets for the beautiful quilts made by Barb. Thanks to all for your fundraising efforts on behalf of our dogs.

## ODH REMEMBERS GAIL DURKEE

The ODH family mourns the loss of foster mom Gail Durkee. Gail took on a little male poodle as her first foster dog—despite asking for a female Chihuahua; she adored him and became a big poodle fan. She added a Chinese crested dog, Brittany, to her home and loved her just as much. She had just welcomed the female Chihuahua (pictured right) into her home at the time of her passing. (That dog is now living happily with another foster family.) Gail was a good person with a big heart ; she cared about the dogs and cared about humans in need; she also volunteered at Northwest Harvest. We are grateful that she was part of ODH for nearly four years.



*Judith Piper*

## PAWS UP TO VOLUNTEER DIANNE MARLOW

*Dianne has been a valued member of the ODH family for many years: She has been a foster mom, served on the Board of Directors, organized and staffed events, coordinated the microchip program, transported dogs and much more. Here's more from Diane about her current volunteer position as Transport Coordinator:*



Photo by Julie Austin

"After moving back to Texas last year to help my mother with Alzheimer's, one of the biggest adjustments was distance from ODH. Taking on the transport coordinator position has not only enabled me to stay connected as a volunteer, but I've found the dedication and compassion of the transport volunteers to be incredibly inspiring, something we've all needed this past year!

"ODH currently has 87 transport volunteers. Though it may sound like a simple thing, transport comes with a unique set of challenges that our volunteers excel at handling:

"Most transport requests are very short notice, especially for dogs in dire condition, and frequently involve long drives and ferries. I receive multiple offers from volunteers almost immediately—no matter the distance or logistical difficulties, they step up for the dogs, taking on the cost of gas and fares. This kind of dedication enables ODH to get these dogs to safety and lifesaving veterinary care started sooner.

"Senior dogs cannot be allowed to jump in/out of vehicles for their safety, so our transporters use a variety of tricks including mobility harnesses, larger vehicles for larger dogs, or enlisting another volunteer for help lifting in/out.

"Our dogs can have unpredictable anxiety or fear behaviors from the stress of shelter environments or leaving the home they've known. Our transporters are calm and understanding of these dogs' emotional needs, providing crates for safety or another volunteer to provide comfort when crates aren't an option.

"Our transporters smooth the transition for dogs and people when picking up a dog surrendered by an individual. There are many reasons people give up their dogs but taking them is hard emotionally—our transporters handle these situations with empathy and professionalism.

"Aside from fostering, I think transport is the most rewarding volunteer activity, particularly if you enjoy providing comfort to senior dogs at a difficult time of their lives. Transporters take photos of the dogs' trips for ODH's social media, and it's clear to see the difference they make for these old dogs, to see them begin to relax, and quite often with the smiles of the freedom ride.

## KUDOS TO VOLUNTEER LESLIE

Well, I've been an Old Dog Haven fan since a friend told me about this organization rescuing and rehoming senior dogs, and I was thrilled to hear it. I started out as a donor, then a fundraiser and then a Final Refuge home.



Leslie & Ole

Ole Solbjornson the Loud is my third ODH dog, preceded by the enchanting Chief Inspector Bones, and the captivating Felonius Gru. My fellows have been so well-loved by all at our street we even hold a yearly ODH benefit yard sale. I'm also an Area Foster Coordinator for North Seattle and I'm now helping with WordPress, wrangling, writing and editing profiles, and revamping our donation can program. Ole and I have even done a short video for a foundation supporting ODH! (He's just that handsome.) I've put time and heart into this organization because I know how deeply ODH cares about senior dogs and how effective that work is. I'm a big believer in modeling the world you want to see, and I think ODH has the capacity to grow and inspire the next generation of advocates for dogs.



Ole-La

I go everywhere with Ole, so I always make sure to let admiring folks know that he's an ODH dog. Most often the reaction is, "Oh, I LOVE Old Dog Haven!" Even if they're not familiar with ODH, it's a great opportunity to share Ole's story of recovery—people can see for themselves how he's

thriving. Two concerns I hear about adopting older dogs—that you "don't know what has happened to them in the past" and/or that it will be "too hard to lose them so quickly"—are answered well by meeting Ole. It is very clear that even the most neglected or abused dog can and will recover with proper care, patience, and love. And it is always, *always* worth the work. Even the pain of losing them is absolutely preferable to not having stepped up for them in the first place. That would be the real heartbreak. I always say that I've never had a dog—and I have had a lot of dogs in my life—that wasn't rejected or abandoned by someone else, *and every single one of them has been the best dog in the world.* Our ODH seniors are fantastic ambassadors for this fact—and by changing minds they help all the senior dogs who will follow them.

Yes! I would love to help Old Dog Haven. Enclosed please find a donation in the amount of : \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to Old Dog Haven.

Old Dog Haven is a 501(c)3 charitable organization. Donations are tax-deductible.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your support! Please mail your check to: P.O. Box 1409, Oak Harbor WA 98277

**THANK  
YOU!**

If you would like to help by providing a permanent foster home please contact us!  
(206) 280-7614

March 2021

Want to donate online? You can choose to give a one-time gift or become a Golden Guardian monthly donor.

<https://olddoghaven.org/donate-now/>



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PLACEMENT/SOCIAL MEDIA DIRECTOR TINA NABSETH

This April 1st I will have worked for Old Dog Haven for nine years. People contact me when they need to find a new home for their senior dog. I have heard a lot of sad stories, but I have also heard the relief and appreciation those people have felt when Old Dog Haven has helped to find a home for their dog. Here are the top three reasons I hear for rehoming dogs:



**1. The dog belonged to a senior person who has passed away, become too ill to care for the dog and/or has gone to assisted living.** Please plan for your dog in the event you are unable to care for him any longer (No matter what your age!). Do not assume that this person will or should be a family member. Find someone you can trust. It is in your dog's best interest to be socialized with other people and other dogs.

**2. A divorce/new baby or young children.** Life happens. I will admit that I used to judge people when I heard they needed to rehome their dog in these cases. Now I understand that when home life changes, it may be best for the dog to find a more appropriate home. A divorce can mean schedule changes and often a move to a home with a dog who will not do well in an apartment, or a home without a yard. As a mother of five and grandmother of seven, I will tell you that kids and dogs do not always mix! This is the case often for old dogs and young children. As dogs age their senses diminish as do their reaction times. A young child is often loud and unpredictable. Old dogs may feel the need to protect themselves as they never have before.

**3. Moving/can no longer afford a dog's care.** With COVID I have seen an increase in these reasons to rehome a dog. This has been a tough time for all of us, but some have faced more challenges than others. I truly feel for people who are forced to give up their dogs because they can no longer afford where they live or to care for their dogs.

I am grateful when an owner contacts us for help, and I am incredibly happy that there are so many wonderful people who want to adopt senior dogs. I am also very thankful that when a dog is not an adoption candidate, Old Dog Haven works so hard to find a fantastic Final Refuge home for the dog. I love seeing happy endings that bring new beginnings for so many senior dogs.



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Newsletter Editor  
Ardeth De Vries

### DOG ACTIVITY 2020

**323 DOGS IN CARE AT YEAR END**

**210 ACTIVE FOSTER HOMES (MORE NEEDED!!)**

**314 NEW DOGS HELPED**

**174 PLACED IN ODH FOSTER HOMES**

**84% OF THOSE FROM SHELTERS AND RESCUE GROUPS, 16% OF THOSE FROM INDIVIDUALS**

**125 DOGS ADOPTED (5 ODH & 120 REFERRALS)**

The dogs featured in the header on the front page are (L-R) Oden, Coco, Finn, Jack Boudreau, Woolfie, Jo, and Sophie.

Need a new ride? You can donate your old vehicle (working or not) to Old Dog Haven. Visit our website [www.olddoghaven.org](http://www.olddoghaven.org) for more information.